v) Promoting IUD 380A intensively as a spacing method because of its longevity of 10 years and advantages over other IUDs.

vi) Fixed day Fixed Place Family Planning Services round the year made possible on account of growing number of 24x7 PHCs and better functioning CHCs and other health facilities under NRHM.

vii) Increasing the basket of choice by systematically and carefully introducing new and effective contraceptives in the programme. The outreach activities through the institution of ASHAs and Monthly Health and Nutrition Days under NRHM have also helped.

Sickle Cell Anaemia

1600. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether June 19, 2009 was remembered as World Sickle Cell Anaemia Awareness Day in the world to deal with the disease, an inherited condition that affects hundreds of thousands of babies born each year, mostly in low and middle income countries;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware that in India thousands of tribal children born with this disease and die due to unawareness;

(c) whether Government has made survey of tribal population of entire country having symptoms and traits of this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the number of deaths recorded during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been supporting research in this area in its own Institutes and other research institutions for over two decades. Council has recently completed a multicentric study on primitive tribal populations of four States i.e Gujarat, Orissa, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. It was reported from the study that the sickle cell gene was present in all the tribal groups. Among the tribal groups, the prevalence of sickle cell gene was found to be very high (21.9%) in Paniyas from Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu) and very low (1.1%) in Didayis from Orissa. Information regarding death records is maintained by the State Governments.

Child mortality rate

1601. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 54 children out of every 1000 children die before attaining one year due to many reasons;